

# CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

Australian Co-Ordination Section

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BULLETIN NUMBER FOUR.

P.O. Box 546 Gosford N.S.W. 2250  
Australia

December 1975.

The year 1975 has seen several great improvements in the world of ufology throughout Australia. Highest amongst these was Ufocon One held last October, where, for the first time, Australia's main organisations came together to pool their knowledge and resources, and put their heads together, without one body trying to take over. From this, it was decided to hold another conference next year.

The Australian Co-Ordination Section for the Center for UFO Studies in America has been organised and is now, (we are proud to announce) functioning 100 % as Professor Hynek requested. A.C.O.S. has processed a total of 57 UFO reports, which averages one per week. At the Conference, it was mentioned that some people were under the impression that ACOS only wanted the GOOD UFO reports. As we explained then, and we stress again now, the Center wants ALL reports, that, after having been investigated, and no explanation found, are therefore UFO reports. Be they a half-second flash of light across the sky, a brief blink in the atmosphere, or a gigantic silver craft that hovers above the local townhall, touching the roof tiles for three hours. So, lets see those reports piling in to us at an average of 20 per week in 1976, as David and Harry are getting very bored sitting here doing nothing. We are sure that Professor Hynek would much rather have big parcels of reports from Australia than tiny little ones.

Also enclosed with this Bulletin, you will find 4 pages of information which we would like you to get one of your officers to fill in, which will enable us to form a nationwide statistical picture of UFO activity throughout 1975. We would greatly appreciate if this could be sent back to us as soon as possible, but no later than FEBRUARY 15th 1976, to give us something to do over summer. The results will then be published in our first Bulletin for 1976 which comes out in March.

At this time, Horrie Aspinall in sunny South Australia is still working on a uniform report form for Australia. He has copies of all the different ones which are used throughout the nation, as well as several from overseas, including the one from the Center. Very soon now, he will have finalised drawing up a suggested format.

Meanwhile in Sydney, Michael Smyth is still working on the magazine idea. One thing we'd like to ask you however, whenever the above two gentlemen write to you with reference to their respective jobs, please answer them as quickly as possible, as the faster we can get the required information to them, the faster we'll have our report forms and magazine.

H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

Which Way do they Rotate?

It was ironic that our last Bulletin contained a short note stating that most UFO's rotate counter-clockwise and a report in which the UFO was observed to rotate clockwise. Still, we have delved into some more reports since last Bulletin, and the general pattern of counter-clockwise rotation for both UFO's and nests continues to emerge, despite a few exceptions. Locality and hemisphere play no apparent role in determining direction of rotation, but the similarity of rotational direction of both objects seen in the air (which, in most cases, were not associated with nests) and with nests on the ground, found on other occasions, adds weight to the contention that both phenomena are related (the obvious relation being that UFO's cause the nests).

CASSETTE LIBRARY.

It has been suggested by one of our member organisations that ACOS start a cassette library, to include cassette recordings of interviews with UFO experts and investigators, interviews with witnesses of good UFO cases, lectures on UFO's from all over the world. We like this idea, and would now like to hear your idea on this. Besides your idea, we'd also like any information on who has already some recorded items etc., which could go into this Cassette library. This library would then be open to all our member organisations at a small fee to cover postage and packing of requested tapes. (Probably 50 cents).

UFO REPORTS.

Our regular feature which was introduced last Bulletin, a page with all the reports ACOS has received since last Bulletin, has had to be cancelled in this issue, owing to no reports having been received.

DEAD MEN'S CAMP FIRES.

From early days, bushmen and Aborigines have told of encounters with a mysterious low altitude UFO - like nocturnal light, said to haunt a number of places in the Australian outback. These "ghost lights" are known to the Aborigines as "Dead Men's Camp Fires" and frequently associated with the "debil-debil" (ghost). The very mention of the D.M.C.F. is still enough to bring a shiver down the spine of even the toughest "bushy".

The phenomenon has been seen frequently on the Blairmore Station in the lower Burnett District of southern Queensland. The "Blairmore Light" moves with apparent intelligence through the bush a few feet above ground level. Many have followed it, usually into swampy ground, but only one man has, allegedly, managed to come near to it - and he won't tell anyone what he saw.

Also in the Burnett District, the Yatton Light is sometimes seen, looking like a hurricane lamp seen at a distance.

Other well known D.M.C.F.'s include the Quinn Light (Lachlan River N.S.W.) which is said to be orange in colour and to light up the trees as it passes among them, - always on a well determined course, the One Tree Plain Light (between Hay and Booligal N.S.W.) and the Min-Min Light of Western Queensland.

The ghost-layer is Mr. Allan Camm who, some years ago, was driving a grader between Boulia and Dajarra when he found that he was being "followed" by a ball of light. Being a stout-hearted fellow, Camm aimed his grader straight at it, hitting the UFO and showering luminous matter all over his machine - and himself. On examining the material, he discovered the secret of the D.M.C.F.'s :- the luminous matter was really myriads of tiny glow-worms.

in this way? Is there an entomologist in the house?????????????????

D. Seargent.

DOCUMENTS + NEW DOCUMENTS + NEW DOCUMENTS + NEW DOCUMENTS + NEW DOCUMENTS + NEW DOCUMENTS + NEW

Here are two new Documents which are now available from the Center through ACOS. Please add these to the list of Documents available which were handed out during the Conference in October.

CONDON CRITIQUES. \$4.00 (D19)

Two reprints - The evaluation of the Condon Report on the Colorado UFO Project by Dr. Peter A. Sturrock, and Condon Report and UFO's by Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

The first, originally published as Report number 599 from the Institute for Plasma Research, Stanford University, by Dr. Sturrock, the head of that Institute and an active member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' (AIAA) former Subcommittee and present Study group on UFO's. The Second is a reprint of an article originally published by J. Allen Hynek in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, April 1969.

STATEMENT ON THE DEXTER AND HILLSDALE UFO SIGHTINGS, 75¢ (D18)  
by J. Allen Hynek.

As inquiries continue to come to the Center about the controversial "Swamp Gas" statement attributed to Dr. Hynek in 1966, the Center is making available Dr. Hynek's statement to the press, in its entirety. The release emphasizes that Dr. Hynek did not consider all of the reported cases in the area at the time to have a swamp gas explanation. He explains his reasoning for explaining some of the cases as such, and includes a description of Swamp Gas.



The Difficulties of Ufology.

by J. Scheibe (West Germany) Original.

Observations made in the past and present seem to give us a motion that some strange objects are flying around above our heads, and would, at times, even leave their marks on earth's surface. Flying saucers as some call them, or unidentified flying objects. To put it the latter way is very reasonable and wise. But, at times, I get the impression of people thinking "unidentified" and "unexplainable" being synonyms. Sometimes I cannot help thinking that serious ufologists are not aware of, or don't bother about this miscomprehension, actually involving a misconception (misinterpretation?) about the work being done by those who are trying to examine these objects.

Some people's comments on UFO observations are to the effect, that the UFOs were seen because one wanted to see them. And the believers do little to convince the formers by stubbornly reassuring their existence.

Apart from pure imagination, jests are being made by throwing a bowl into the air, taking a photograph and declaring the object to be a UFO, which it is, as long as you cannot identify it as a bowl. So, although not too seriously, there is an emotion-loaded atmosphere in arguments between the parties who either "believe" or "not believe" in UFOs. Fortunately, the discussions and arguments have not reached the fierceness of the battles between religious men and atheists. When we take it for granted that UFOs are not god's angels watching over us, we could well get at the flying objects by pure use of science, without being carried away by wishful thinking.

Up until now, ufology has not been recognised as a science, as the traditional mathematics, chemistry, physics etc are, as it is lacking theory, prediction, explanation and thoroughly examined observations. Whereby I don't mean that ufologists wouldn't examine observations closely, but their means (financially and technically) are limited. Also, they mostly have to rely upon second hand information, as an observation cannot be predicted and is a matter of chance. Therefore, the only thing ufology can do, in order to step into the war-paths of science, is (as it has done already):

1. To record and evaluate observations and information, as to whether they are figments of the imagination, hoaxes or something worthwhile.
2. To gather information about the worth - while observations from relevant sources (Universities, meteorological institutions, military, NASA etc), thus being able to put it into the categories of "identified" or "unidentified".
3. To seek for an explanation for the "unidentified flying objects".

Strangely enough, the last point is the most difficult to achieve, for it is apt to challenge one's fantasies in the most remote ways. It is motivation, for one's work and seduction at the same time. Strangely enough also, ufologists should give an answer to something the questioned sources could not give, although the former have in no ways the means of the latter. At least, that is what the above mentioned parties expect from ufologists, one for confirmation of it's own views, and the other for having a good laugh. Taken even the unique and ideal situation, that for some time, all of mankind's technological equipment were concentrated on UFO observations and the outcome would be, there really are unexplainable objects among the up to them unidentified objects, and the question would be flung back to the ufologists "What are they ?".



It would be the worst thing for ufologists to say that they are space ships from alien stars, or even to answer the question at all in some different way. It would be hypocritic, as you really don't know what they are, when even all science had to surrender.

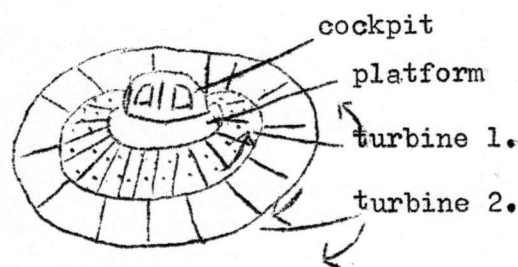
There are similar observations on the frontiers of science, which nobody can explain yet, and no serious scientist would have said, after observing the black holes in space and before knowing what they looked like, to say they are the eyes of some devil.

So the ufologists' explanation have to be confined to the simple questions: what do the UFOs do, what do they look like, where are they found most frequently, which altitudes, day or night time, meteorological conditions etc., etc they prefer. This all, including observation and thorough research, can't be a weekend hobby, but ought to be regarded as a serious task.

Ufology has to be taken out of the half-religious beliefs and emotional arguments, and has to be strengthened in its image as to what it really is: A center of up to now neglected observations ( the same goes with ESP by the way), which one day will help mankind on its way, and a center of rough evaluation, but this done thoroughly, and when this is done, the means might be provided to do the kind of explaining I mentioned in this chapter, and ufology may well become a new branch of astronomy and physics, perhaps even more than that.

Up till now, I cannot imagine that any representative of Parliament would be able to gather votes bu supporting ufology. The same goes for the U.S.A., where most UFO observations seem to be made. But if ufologists could convey a scientific picture and not just a hobby-like one like poker playing, surely the government would finance their efforts.

There is another item I would like to call your attention to. The pictures I examined about the shapes of UFOs have some striking resemblance to a sketch I found in the book "Deutsche Geheimwaffen des 2. Weltkriegs " (German secret weapons of World War II.). The article stated that the germans had developed a platform, around which, two propellers or turbines were rotating in different directions at a different radius. On the platform itself was the cockpit, and the whole thing would have reached incredible speeds. From its design, as much as I could draw from it, it was also able to hover like a helicopter. It was finished (so the article said) at the end of the war, and then went into Canadian and American hands, who tested and used the thing and kept it a secret.



The article was very vague about details, so I didn't take it too seriously, after all, if it really had prooved effective, could the secret have been kept up for so long? Well anyway, military might have a few funny things up its sleeve, trying to give no information about.

May it be as it is, wouldn't it be great if the occupants in the UFOs landed and gave us a piece of mind?

(The above article was especially written by J. Scheibe for the ACOS Bulletin.)

SOME NOTES.

Even the most conservative UFO investigators are not overly worried about nocturnal lights. The appearance of a mysterious light wandering about the night sky certainly suggests the existence of a strange (and possibly hitherto unrecognized) phenomenon, but that phenomenon - whatever it may be - is held at arm's length, so to speak, behind the obscuring curtain of darkness.

Close encounters of types I and II, even daylight discs, are not so accomodating. Here the phenomenon is more exposed, as it were, more open to view and less able to be swept aside as a mistaken interpretation of something simpler (even if unknown). However, even these types of encounters may (with a greater or lesser degree of difficulty) be accomodated to our preconceived view of the nature of things. Not so the 2 remaining types, assuming that they are what they appear to be. These two remaining types are, of course, type III close encounters and contactee encounters. If we take them at face value they represent contact between the observer and some as yet unrecorded type of intelligent entity (though not necessarily an entity from another planet). The basic difference between the two is the lack of "dialogue" in the first instance, and the existence of some kind of "message" in the second. Also, the typical contactee experience is an intensely "religious" one, but then again, "ordinary" (if this word is permissible in the UFO context) encounters with one of these objects (even if that encounter is not particularly close or if no entities are seen) can be, and often are, experiences of a religious nature for many people, sometimes to such an extent that the whole philosophy of life of the witness is altered. Closely parallel to this is the feeling that something remarkable has happened, that the witness has experienced something quite fantastic (more fantastic than the mere observation of an unusual phenomenon, irrespective of how strange this may have been) but which has left only a poor trace in the memory. This is a phenomenon quickly recognized by students of religious, visionary and mystical experience.

It is with these two classes of "entity" cases that most of the scorn and scepticism is directed. It is permissible for someone to see something strange in the sky, but to see humanoids and especially to communicate with them - well. that is just too much.

Serious researchers now look less critically on the type III cases, at least they are willing to admit that the witnesses are reporting what to them was a real experience, but the contactees are, in general, still out of favour, being left to the pseudo-religious fanatics and cults. Indeed, there is much evidence to support the contention that contactees are suffering from some psychological malady; the structure of the contactee cults, for instance, is typical of sado-masochist cells (the leader who needs the total support of his followers and the followers who feel the powerful psychological need for total identification with a "prophet" who has the "truth". The Manson "Family" is an excellent example of this, but it is also found in many of the more freakish hippie cults, which usually have a spiritist or contactee basis). Furthermore the schizophrenic fantasies of the leader tend to bring to the fore the latent schizophrenic tendencies in his followers, which re-inforces the solidarity of the cult, in turn making followers and leader even more interdependent and so on in a vicious circle.



Nevertheless, when all this is said, there still remains large numbers of "silent contactees" (those who remain obscure after their experience(s) and do not join or form a cult) and the fact that even "insane" contactees have still been known to report UFOs which agree even in minute details with the typical objects reported by non-contactees. The mind plays an, as yet, undetermined role in the UFO phenomenon and the possibility of a mind-stimulus-stimulus-mind interaction holding the key to the whole dilemma should not be overlooked and, while ever this is not overlooked, total dismissal of a report because the witness appears "mad" is begging the question.

I shall, therefore, reverse the usual tendency to sunder type III cases and contactee cases and, instead, attempt to find points of agreement between them. I must hasten to add that I am in no way trying to prove that long-haired Venusians actually walk among us. This is simplistic nonsense. But I do hope to demonstrate that there are reasons for believing that the mechanism behind these two classes of encounters (and probably of all UFO reports) is the same. My own personal belief is that it is psychical rather than physical - from the inner space of the mind rather than the outer space of the cosmos.

Point No. 1. Contactee developments can and do take place in flap areas and at times of intense UFO activity. Sometimes people living in such areas at these times feel "compelled" to go outside into the open air for no apparent reason. This "compulsion" is often the initial sign of the contactee syndrome, whether or not it develops any further depends upon the person concerned.

Non contactees in flap areas sometimes report strange dreams about UFOs, at times seeming to foretell the sighting of an object. Experiences such as these appear to form a bridge between "conventional" UFO cases and contactee cases.

Point No. 2. Type III reports "shade off" into contactee reports by means of a number of "bridge" cases. One famous case is the Betty and Barney Hill incident, not a traditional Type III, but neither a traditional contactee. Another is the Villas Boas case. Both these incidents involved "contact" but not in the normal "message from space" context.

Other, and dissimilar, "bridge" cases are those involving sighting (as distinct from contact) of entities whose description seems more akin to that of the entities described in contactee experiences rather than in type III cases. For instance "long haired" small men were reported in the Miguel Espanol case of October 10, 1957 (long hair being, of course, a favourite of contactee entities). Tall men with long hair were also reported in the Guimaraes case (July 1957), the El Chaco case (1963) and medium sized men with long hair, in the Porto Alegre case of November 10, 1954 and the Costa e Rosa case of December 9, 1954. None of these cases involved contact. The being described in the final incident was almost identical to Adamski's "Venusian", even though the reporter was an almost illiterate peasant who is most unlikely to have been a follower of Adamski. In fact he claimed never to have heard of "flying saucers" let alone contactees.

Yet another type of "bridge" is represented by those cases which involve a single, isolated, contact including some form of message, for example, the Siragusa case (Italy April 30, 1962) where two "men" of normal height gave a peace message, in Italian, before leaving in a brilliant flying saucer. Such reports are not uncommon, they remind one of the messages from angels of yesteryear and seem to provide a "half way house", as it were, between type III reports involving no real contact and fully fledged contact cases.



Type 111 cases have been called "festivals of absurdity", perhaps we can say that the more "absurd" the "festival" becomes, the more closely the contactee position is approached.

Point No. 3. There are cases on record where an alleged contactee only entered into the full contactee experience after returning to the site where he (sometimes in the company of other witnesses) observed a UFO. For instance one case of which I am aware became a contactee experience for the principal witness only after he returned, alone, to the place of his initial experience. However his initial sighting was shared by at least one other man, for whom the case was a type 111 experience, not a contactee event. Had the principal witness not returned, this is how the case would have been listed.

What are we to say about all this?

First, the obvious similarities between contacteeism and spiritism (in its various manifestations) is so striking that the psychic core of the former phenomenon can hardly be overlooked. But, if there is a continuum between the contactee class and the type 111 close encounter class (as we strongly suggest that there is) and if this latter class lies on the same spectrum as other types of UFO experience (as is generally believed) we are faced with a single series of types of UFO occurrences grading from Nocturnal Lights on one extremity to contactee encounters on the other, and if we are correct in our belief that contactee cases are basically psychic, this strongly suggests an important (and maybe essential) psychic element in all UFO experiences.

Secondly, contactee experiences are absurd if taken as bona fide contacts with extraterrestrials. If the psychic interpretation is taken, however, they are at least more understandable (they remain absurd, but psychic experiences are permitted to be absurd, whereas extraterrestrial contacts are not). Perhaps contactee experiences are nothing more than a hallucination representation of the religious experience sometimes reported by non contactee witnesses of close encounters-perhaps.

"Surely", someone will say "this is enough to distinguish contactee cases from Type 111 close encounters - the latter may quite reasonably be explained as genuine extraterrestrial landings." Can they? Let us remember that the descriptive "festivals of absurdity" applied to some of these cases may equally be used to describe psychic happenings. Let's see how absurd the festival really is. We have (on face value) beings from another planet arriving here in craft which, to say the least, are uncomfortably small. These intrepid ufonauts step out onto the surface of our alien world, often with a minimum of protective clothing, and breathe our alien atmosphere without ill effects. We see little men doing repairs on their marvelous spaceships - which seem to break down more often than Grandpa's T-model Ford. We encounter one-eyed beings behaving as though they had binocular vision (didn't someone once say that binocular vision might be essential for intelligent life?). Dwarfs who, because of their small stature may have evolved on a planet more massive than earth and giants who (conversely) may have come from a smaller world both move around with ease in our gravity, breathing air that must seem like a vacuum in one case and soup in the other. Then there are the odd (in more ways than one) reports of beings a few centimeters high riding about in football-sized flying saucers. Could a being this small have the brain capacity for intelligence? Most exobiologists seem (to my knowledge) to doubt it.

All the above examples have been reported by witnesses who seem sincere. I believe that they are records of real experiences, at least to the witnesses. Yet, I think, they are absurd - absurd to such a degree that they are impossible if assumed to be bona fide contacts with extraterrestrials.

We must face up to the absurdity of type III cases, just as we must face up to the absurdity of contactee cases. If they do not fit within the extraterrestrial framework, then the extraterrestrial hypothesis must be abandoned. We cannot afford to hold to the extraterrestrial dogma, forcing all categories of sightings into an artificial conformity. The extraterrestrial hypothesis, like any other, stands or falls by the data, not vice versa.

Likewise, we cannot hide our heads from the very real dangers of contacteeism - this dark side of ufology cannot be swept under the metaphorical rug any longer. It is a plague of our century, it has been responsible for mental breakdowns, broken homes, crimes (including murders) suicides etc., etc., BUT IT IS A PART OF THE OVERALL UFO PROBLEM - like it or not..... It is with us, atrocities and all, just as surely as the pretty-coloured nocturnal lights - maybe it is it, not they which holds the key to the problem.

David Seargent.

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A very interesting article appeared in the November 3 issue of TIME magazine regarding the Center for UFO Studies.

#### THE UFO CLANS GATHER.

"Some of the participants slipped out to watch a rerun of an old STAR TREK episode. But most of the 350 delegates were dedicated. After all, what brought them together last week in Fort Smith Ark., was the world's first "serious" international UFO conference. It was also the first such gathering attended by U.S. officials representatives.

As usual, the believers lambasted the Pentagon for suppressing UFO reports. Astronomer J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, author of the recent book, "The UFO Experience", accused the Air Force of "pigeonholing every UFO sighting as either conventional aircraft, balloons or natural phenomena in order to produce statistics showing a low number of unexplained cases."

Perhaps. But the conference heard little new evidence to shake skeptics, presumably including the observers from the Federal Aviation Administration and the North American Air Defense Command. Before repeating the tale of his brief "capture" by a spacecraft that landed near Pascagoula, Miss., in 1973, Fisherman Charles Hickson prudently refused to go through with a promised polygraph examination. On one thing the conference did agree: in the future the squabbling UFO groups - the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) and the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) - will pool their findings and allow Hynek's new Center for UFO Studies in Evanston Ill., to act as a worldwide data bank. The irrepressible Hynek seemed equal to the honour. Declaring that far too much time has already been wasted trying to convince nonbelievers of the reality of UFOs, he said, "We need to stop arguing the existence of the eggs and get down to cooking the omelet."

(( Notice once more the News Media's irresistible "dig" at beginning of article.) H

Another article, extremely interesting appeared in the November 1975 issue of "Official UFO", which describes the CENTER for UFO STUDIES. We now reproduce parts of that article, to inform everyone as to what the Center is all about and how it operates.

" In the words of Director J. Allen Hynek, "an association of scientists, recognized for research in their own scientific disciplines, but who are also interested in the UFO phenomenon."

It should have been obvious right from the start of the "UFO age" in June 1947 that UFOs posed a scientific problem, and that their study should have been in the hands of scientists, not soldiers. But the era of the "flying saucers" was born amid great howls of laughter, and was then quickly grabbed by the military. No scientist who was at all concerned about his professional reputation was about to challenge those who were falling down laughing at the gullibility of the American people. Nor was he willing to stand up to the Air Force.

But the departure from the scene of the Air Force had one very positive effect: The way was cleared for others to enter the arena.

The first - and so far the only - person to take advantage of the change of environment is Dr. J. Allen Hynek, long the chairman of Northwestern University's Astronomy Department. For much of his 20-year tenure as astronomy consultant to the Air Force's UFO investigation, Dr. Hynek had dreamed of a proper study of the subject, staffed by a variety of scientists who could work in an atmosphere of scientific freedom. The UFO sighting wave of late 1973 gave him just this opportunity. While most of the nation was scratching its collective head in bewilderment over the reported abduction of the two Mississippi fishermen by the crew of a UFO, Dr. Hynek was setting in motion his long-delayed plans.

About December 1, 1973, Dr. Hynek announced the establishment of the Center for UFO Studies. Reports were pouring in from all parts of the U.S., but there was no organized system for sorting them out., processing them, and then making use of the solid ones that remained. The Air Force was out of the UFO business, and NICAP, once the focal point for civilian activity, was but a shadow of its former self. It was Dr. Hynek's plan to provide this necessary service.

The Center immediately began to lay the groundwork for a truly extensive network through which it hoped to get enough reports to make possible some real scientific research. First came contacts with the Nation's police forces. When the Air Force left the UFO business, it advised citizens to report sightings to their local police if they felt endangered. Dr. Hynek seized upon this and established a toll-free telephone for the use of thousands of police and sheriffs departments. Later, the Volunteer Flight Officer Network was brought into the system. This had been established as a channel for the world's airline crews to report sightings of unusually bright fireballs and satellite re-entries to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. The first priority effort for the Center for UFO Studies would have to be education. Pilots and police and others would have to become convinced that Dr. Hynek's group of scientists was serious, and not inclined towards sensational publicity. The biggest boost the police reporting network has so far received was the extensive story about it in the FBI's monthly "Law Enforcement Bulletin," with a circulation of 80,000 to every police department in the country. It is heavy on the scientific aspects of police work, and has thus achieved great respectability. Similarly, the recognition of the Center by the Volunteer Flight Officers Network added more to the Center's much needed stature. Not only does the VFON cover all U.S. airlines, but also those of 54 other countries - virtually every airline except for Eastern Europe.



Reports that are received by the Center are handled like any scientific data. They are studied, followed up, analyzed and distributed to those scientists who have expressed their willingness to review them in hopes of finding some clues to this mystery.

The reports are not publicised, because that isn't the scientific way of doing things. If it looked like the Center was interested in attracting public attention by releasing information to the press on individual sightings before they were thoroughly investigated, then there would be little likelihood of many scientists agreeing to work with it.

But thanks to solid groundwork the reports are arriving in a steady stream. For the year 1974, they averaged more than one per day, and there were no great ups and downs. The busiest month had 58 sightings, while the slowest month had 27; the average was 38 per month.

Of the 443 reports for 1974, almost half involved more than a single witness, which pretty much rules out delusions and imagination. While most of the reports (71%) were of nocturnal lights (almost useless to scientists), 37 reports were of discshaped craft seen in the daylight, and another 76 reports were of "close encounters", meaning within 1,000 feet of the observer.

The distribution around the country was quite broad, with California producing the most reports of any state. In 1974, the Center was able to get its people to the scene of 85 sightings, and followed up by telephone or letter another 133. Just what the future holds for Dr. Hynek and his Center for UFO Studies remains to be seen. Its quite cautious growth and careful planning and organization should establish it as the prime scientific UFO organisation in the world. It has the most extensive collection of cases ever assembled in one place: Dr. David Saunders' 40,000-case UFOCAT (UFO Catalog) stored in a computer. Its growing collection of scientific talent is undoubtedly the finest ever. Plans are now proceeding to acquire proper funding from foundations which routinely support a wide variety of projects, even if they do not offer promise of immediate success.

But a lot depends on the UFOs themselves. If they are being seen regularly around the world (which seems to be the case) then the Center for UFO Studies stands a good chance of getting enough current data through its well developed channels. If, on the other hand, UFO sightings occur in flurries, as has long been apparent, then a large measure of patience is in order.

Either way, the CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES seems destined to play a large part in the future of UFO investigation and perhaps even in the solution to the mystery."

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In our last Bulletin, we presented the case in Western Australia, the "Narrogin Depression", from which, soil samples were taken, after a depression in a oat field measuring 38 feet by 22 feet was found. The ACOS reference number for that report is "WA006".

A report from Dr. G. Stevens which was only just received is as follows:

"Some results of analysis of the Narrogin samples are available. Samples 1 and 2 which were taken from the affected area. Sample 3 from well outside the depression.

1. On receipt the material was checked for radioactivity. No  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  or  $\gamma$  radiation above background was detected.

2. No spectrographic difference between soil samples 1, 2 & 3, Elements detected were

Si	50%	Mg	.05 %	Cu	.01 %	Ag	.002 %
Al	10 %	Ba	.05 %	Cr	.01 %	Pb	.002 %
Fe	1-10	Ti	.05	Ca	.01	Mn	.002
Na	1-10					Ni	.002
K	1-10						

3. Solutions (1:1 extract)

Sample	pH	Conductivity	$\mu S\ cm^{-1}$
1.	5.8	406	
2.	5.8	450	
3.	5.4	255	

4. Visual inspection.

No anomalous features.

Further tests are planned and will be known in due course. "

When these results are at hand, we will advise everyone.

We wish to apologise for the delay in this Bulletin, but this was mainly due to the Christmas - New Year holidays, plus the fact that this is a very large edition of the Bulletin, which we hope you have enjoyed reading as much as we have enjoyed to write it. Once again, we stress that the attached Sheet of Statistics be returned to us by no later than February 15th, to enable us to include the statistics in our March Bulletin, which we would like to bring out on time.

H. Griesberg  
D. Seargent  
Co-Ordinators.